

Review of Wheat Import Policy

735. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing shortage in supply of wheat at present and is importing the same;

(b) if so, what quantity and at what price, per quintal, of wheat was imported during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government restored custom duty cut on wheat imports, which was brought down to five per cent in August, 2006; and

(d) whether Government propose to review the wheat import policy in the near future; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No wheat was imported on Government account during the last three years. However, in 2006, to augment the central pool stock, Government has contracted 55 lakh tons for imports through State Trading Corporation at an weighted average price of US\$205.31 per ton (Rs. 9548.31).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government keeps assessing the supply and demand position of wheat factoring in the international and prevailing market prices, ensuring commitments to be met under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), other food based welfare schemes and emergency relief measures (like flood/drought, etc.) and takes timely decisions, if any required, to keep intact the food security for the nation.

Industrially backward areas in Andhra Pradesh

736. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has identified any industrial backward areas in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what special schemes are being implemented by Government for

providing fiscal concessions to improve the industrial infrastructure and to create conducive climate for setting up of industries and flow of FDI in States; and

(d) the details of proposals approved in Andhra Pradesh under various schemes, and the amount released during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) For the purposes of income tax concessions, a list of industrially backward districts in the country has been notified under the Income Tax Act. Srikakulam and Mahbubnagar districts have been specified as Category 'B' industrially backward districts.

(c) Under the liberalised economic environment investment decisions, including investment by foreign investors, are taken by entrepreneurs based on techno-economic considerations which in turn depend on the initiatives of the State Governments in creating conducive environment by way of providing infrastructure facilities and other incentives. Central Government supplements their efforts to the extent possible. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is implementing the Growth Centre Scheme (GCS), Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS), North-East Industrial Policy Package, Special Category States Package and Industrial Parks Scheme in this regard to promote industrial development.

(d) Statement indicating projects/proposals sanctioned under the IIUS and GCS and release of funds for the State of Andhra Pradesh is given at statement (See below).

Statement

A. Growth Centre Scheme

Name of Growth Centre (District)	Date of approval	Approved Project cost	Approved Central Grant	Central grant released till date	<i>{Rs. in lakh}</i>		
					Central grant released in last three years		
					2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Hindupur (Anantpur)	30.3.92	2728.00	1000	250	-	50	0
Jedchrela (Mehboobnagar)	23.7.92	3408.00	1000	645		195	400

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bobbilli (Vizianagaram)	30.3.92	3576.12	1000	601		50	0
Ongole (Prakasam)	30.3.92	3241.00	1000	860	100		-

B. Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme

(Rs. in crore)

Name of Cluster	Date of approval	Approved Project cost	Approved GOI Grant	Amount of Central Release	Year of release of Central Grant
Pharma Cluster, Hyderabad	4.11.2004	66.16	49.62	16.54	2006
Auto Cluster, Vijayawada	2.7.2004	31.08	23.31	7.80	2004

Note: Subsequent release of the Central Grant under the above Schemes is dependent on utilisation of funds by the implementing agency.

Trishul Missile Project

737. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trishul Missile Project, is proposed to be wound up for want of orders from prospective users, after 23 years of R&D, involving Rs. 250 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many such projects the DRDO is currently working on, with details of their respective sanction/launch, present status, amount spent so far, and the targeted date for their induction into the defence force; and

(d) the details of measures taken to bring down the cost and the delay in the project development and delivery at the DRDO, and make its projects/ products comparable with the best in the international market?